

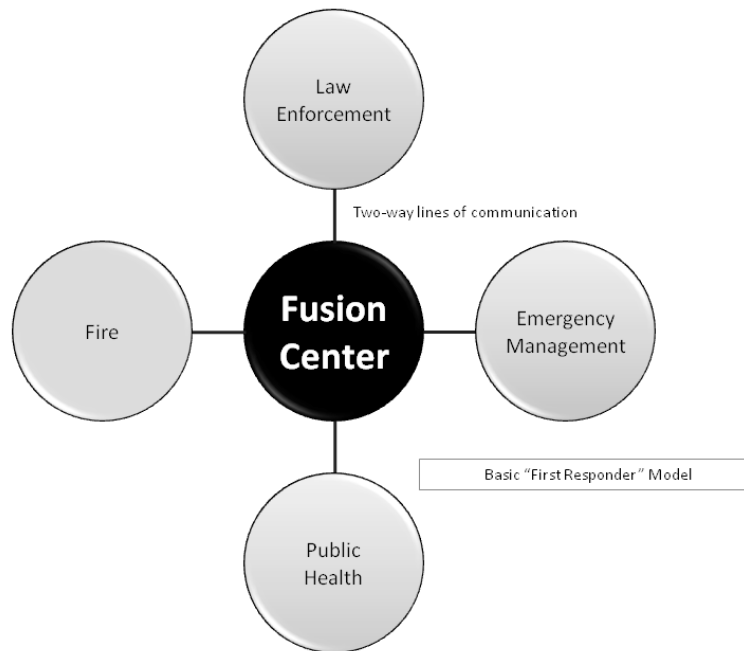
## Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Proposal

### Background

The post 9/11 environment for the Fire Service has been traditionally response driven. In recent years it has become clearly evident that the best way to deal with the terrorist threat is through prevention. There has been a national push to increase collaboration and information sharing amongst disciplines. California has adopted the DHS model for Fusion Centers. The state is represented by four regional fusion centers called Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Centers (RTTACs). The RTTACs serve the greater areas of Northern California, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego. In addition to the regional centers there is also a State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center (STTTAC).



The Fusion Centers in the State are utilizing the Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Program to foster communication and collaboration amongst the fire service; law enforcement; the federal homeland security and intelligence communities and public safety stakeholders. TLOs serve as the conduit through which homeland security and crime-related information flows from the field to the Fusion Center for assessment and analysis. The network also serves as the vehicle to carry actionable intelligence from the Fusion Center to field personnel. This information flow provides for increased safety and security for fire department personnel as well as the communities served.



### Progress

During the summer of 2008, the California Fusion Centers launched the Terrorism Liaison Officer Basic course statewide. This course is an 8 hour Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Certified delivery. The TLO Basic class has been delivered approximately 100 times since its inception. This class is the *minimum requirement* for stakeholders to be part of California Terrorism Liaison Officer Program. The goal of the training is to explain information sharing and the appropriate handling of information. Several thousand people have been trained statewide from multiple disciplines. Approximately 400 fire service personnel have been trained statewide.

### Goal

The goal is to increase Fire Service integration into the information sharing environment. With the large number of firefighters in the state of California, 400 trained TLOs falls far short of where the numbers should be. At a minimum, every fire department in the state should have a designated TLO. Ideally, there would be a firefighter with TLO training in every station in the state. Some regions of the state are training their personnel with little concern about the overall approving authority. Other agencies are resisting involvement into the program due to lack of California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) approval. This proposal will attempt to remedy this issue. It is not the intent to create a new California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) Certification Track for Terrorism or Terrorism Liaison Officer. The goal would be for the class to be approved under the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP). This approval would allow for both CSFM and POST recognition, which in turn would reinforce statewide multi-discipline collaboration.